



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Announces Election Reforms

California Plan Calls for Modernizing Voting Equipment and Increasing Poll Worker Training

SACRAMENTO, CA—Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's plan to reform the California election system is now posted on the Secretary of State's web site. It outlines the state's plan to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) that was adopted to avoid the problems that occurred in Florida at the 2000 presidential election.

Reforms described in the plan include:

- Modernizing voting equipment, including the replacement of punch card voting machines, with an emphasis on deploying touch screen voting machines;
- Making all polling places and voting machines accessible to individuals with disabilities;
- Enhancing California's "provisional ballot" procedures;
- Increasing the education and training of elections officials and poll workers;
- Augmenting the information provided to voters;
- Expanding efforts to inform eligible citizens about the voting process;
- Improving California's complaint procedure.

California is expected to receive over \$100 million from the federal government to help finance the reforms.

The Secretary of State's plan was developed with the assistance of a bipartisan 24 member advisory committee consisting of a cross section of Californians. In addition, hundreds of citizens provided input at five public hearings held in San Diego, Los Angeles, Fresno, San Francisco and Sacramento as well as by letters and e-mails. Prior to the adoption of the final plan, a preliminary plan was made available for additional public comment for a 30 day period.

A complete copy of Secretary Shelley's plan is posted, in English and in Spanish, at <http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/hava.htm>.